



St Denys Church

Building a community of God's people in the power of the Holy Spirit

Mission Action Plan

2004-2009

The Place

In 1993 the parish of Lisvane received, for the first time its own incumbent. Up until that time the parishes Llanishen and Lisvane had shared an incumbent. Lisvane is a suburb of the City and County of Cardiff and covers an area of approximately 1,400 acres near the northern border of the city. The parish extends clockwise from beyond the main Caerphilly Rd. (A469) on the west, follows the old county boundaries to the north and east, and the railway line and motorway to the south.

Lisvane does not have its own shopping centre and there is very little employment in the parish. As a result the population generally travel out of the parish to shop and to work. However there are: -

- ÿ two churches - St Denys church & Lisvane Baptist Church which meets in the Memorial Hall,
- ÿ a post-office,
- ÿ a village shop,
- ÿ three public houses, all of which offer food and are well know locally,
- ÿ a primary school feeding into Llanishen High School, [however many other children attend private schools all over Cardiff],
- ÿ Lisvane Memorial Hall [built as a war memorial and administered by a management committee] which is a community hall in which many local groups meet and local events and productions are held
- ÿ the Old School building – now administered as a community venue by the Community Council,
- ÿ a locally run library,
- ÿ a Scout Hall - leased to a local nursery group (no Scouts but there are Brownies),
- ÿ a playing field used by local football and rugby teams.
- ÿ a golf club
- ÿ a tennis club
- ÿ a variety of green areas including Cefn Onn woods, and Lisvane reservoir
- ÿ a Community association which includes most local organisations and churches in its membership and produces a monthly newsletter – Lisvane Link

The People*

There has been very little increase in the population of the parish since the 1970's when a sharp rise in population occurred due to some intense house building. According to the census data, the population has grown as follows: -

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1971 - pop. 1,870
1981 - pop. 3,060

1991 - pop. 3,350
2001 - pop. 3,320

Other information gleaned from the census returns includes the following;

Population	c3, 500		Health	Long term illness	13.11%
Average household	2.66 people			Health 'not good'	13.92%
Of which	under 19 yrs	21.42%	Ethnicity	Non-white	5.27%
	20yrs – 44yrs	22.86%		Born outside Wales	33.02%
	45yrs – 64yrs	33.21%		Knowledge of Welsh	16.41%
	65yrs & over	26.42%		'Christian'	75.72%
				No Religion	13.08%
	Single	18.27%	Housing	Detached	81.52%
	Married	72.06%		Terraced	1.34%
	Divorced	3.62%		Flats	6.00%
	Widowed	5.51%		Rented	2.56%
Transport	No car	5.84%	Work	Unemployed	1.24%
	2 or more cars	64.00%		Have never worked	13.33%
				Have no qualifications	11.11%

**Figures from 2001 Census returns - http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/censusdata/key_statistics_for_lisvane.htm*

The Future

As a result of development, the ancient village of Lisvane has lost much of its village nature and although there is a concerted effort amongst some villagers to retain this 'village feel', Lisvane has looked more and more like a suburb of Cardiff.

The housing prices in the parish are amongst the highest in South Wales and this tends to mean that professional people with established careers who are looking to set up family homes buy the houses. Older people often move into sheltered housing or flats in Llanishen or elsewhere because of the difficulty of getting to shops and other amenities once they are no longer able to drive a car.

Since 1991 there has been considerable housing development on land to the south east of the parish, particularly in the area around Pontprennau. Additionally it is proposed to build around 4,000 houses on the land between Lisvane and Pontprennau. Whilst only half of this, in the strictest sense, is inside

the bounds of the parish, it is reasonable to assume that many of the new residents may consider Lisvane church as their local Church.

Our expectation is that the population of the parish will increase significantly in the next few years especially with young families. This will create its own set of challenges for the church especially with regard to issues of space in our existing buildings and issues of workload for the already overstretched leadership team.

As a parish we are committed to growing the church both numerically and spiritually and the projected increase in population should make this growth inevitable. However we are committed to real growth in the sense of reaching out to the secular community with the gospel and so are looking to grow the church by more than the projected increase in population.

This increase in population will also increase the need to build 'community' here and we believe that the church can play a vital role in that work especially by offering the community training and teaching opportunities that are unlikely to be offered by other agencies.

Gifts & resources – our own & locally

We believe that God has gifted the parish of Lisvane with all the resources and gifts needed to undertake the work that God has outlined for us to do. Amongst the gifts and resources we have as a church include the following;

- ÿ Alpha courses, also regional co-ordinators and recognition as an Alpha resource church.
- ÿ Choir [RSCM affiliated/mixed SATB]
- ÿ Friendship Club for children and young people with special needs.
- ÿ Home-groups.
- ÿ Junior Church leaders for five Junior Church groups.
- ÿ Ladies Guild.
- ÿ Pastoral care group – looking after and visiting mostly housebound people.
- ÿ Parochial Church Council.
- ÿ Prayer Groups.
- ÿ Pastoral Leadership Team (Cf Appendix 1).
- ÿ Scramblers group for pre-school children.

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- ÿ Student Youth Minister [Full Time].
- ÿ Varied styles of church services
- ÿ Youth Groups.
- ÿ Web site (www.stdenyschurch.org.uk).
- ÿ Worship Group.

Because of the nature of the community there is no lack of people with professional and management expertise and as a result there is a great deal of good work going on in the community, for example

- ÿ Cardiff Action for the Single Homeless (CASH) committee supports the Huggard Centre
- ÿ Drama group
- ÿ Locally run coffee mornings etc. to support a wide variety of local and national charities
- ÿ Pied Piper music group for pre-school children
- ÿ Tree-tops nursery group
- ÿ Youth Club - jointly run by St Denys, Lisvane Baptist Church and the Community Council
- ÿ other groups listed in Lisvane Link

Many church members support this work and some hold leadership responsibilities in various bits of it.

It is not our desire as a church to replicate work that the community is already doing but we do want to be involved in that work as Christians being involved in our community.

Vision

God is a God of relationships, most profoundly illustrated by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit relationships within the Holy Trinity that is one God. His greatest desire is that our relationships with each other should be marked by the love that He sacrificially shares with us (*cf.* 1 Corinthians 13). He sent Jesus to demonstrate that love to a sinful world (John 3.16) and now in the power of the Holy Spirit, chooses to use the Church as a vehicle for showing His love to the world of today (Acts 1.8). The Church is a living organism, '*The Body of Christ*', and living things by their nature grow, change and mature. The New Testament uses various pictures to describe the Church, such as a flock of sheep (John 10.2-4), a living vine (John 15.4-5), a building site (1 Peter 2.5) and a human body (1 Corinthians 12.27-28). The significant link between these images is that they are all things that grow. Thus the

church is meant to be a growing community, involving the ministry of all the baptised people of God, and, like all other living organisms, it needs to be growing in both quality and quantity if it is healthy.

Our parish mission statement is

Building a community of God's people in the power of the Holy Spirit,

and so our vision is to build that *community* under God in all that we do so as to fulfil Christ's mission in the power of the Holy Spirit in our community.

In order to do this we need to under-gird our work with the following

- ÿ Prayer – including corporate prayer and prayer meetings;
- ÿ Biblical teaching
- ÿ Worship – in recognising that all worship is an offering to the Lord;
- ÿ Ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit exercised by ordinary members of the congregation;
- ÿ Encouragement of others
- ÿ Accepting of others – particularly of those who are new to the church;
- ÿ Delegation by leaders looking to share their responsibilities and develop leadership skills in others
- ÿ Confidence in the Gospel and in understanding that we all have a part to play

Our unfolding Mission over the next five years

Our mission statement, our values and our obedience to the Gospel of Christ lead us to be committed therefore to the following work,

1. To grow the church numerically and spiritually.
2. To provide welcoming, excellent and varied worship opportunities, which are valued and valuable no matter what their style.
3. To discover and implement a variety of ways of supporting 'community' in the parish
4. To give what God is doing for us to others by finding ways of being a resource for other churches including in training days and mission teams.

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Aim 1								
To grow the church numerically and spiritually								
Start Date	End Date	TASK	Action Needed	Resources Needed	Who by	Measures of success	Review Date	Review Body
22.08.04	11.09.04	Review ER & produce attendee map	Identify six people to scrutinise the ER	Copies of ER - supplied	Confidential list held by the Vicar	Will identify regularity of attendance throughout ER	04.10.04	Vicar & Churchwardens
13.09.04	Not known	Extend Worship and Hall space	Liase with Architect to develop sketch plans	Time with Architect	Vicar & Churchwardens	Presentation of drawings to PCC in Nov.04	15.11.04	PCC
11.09.04	Not known	Involving Prayer in Decision making	1. Advance notice of PCC issues in Notice sheet	Information	Michael Brooks & John Sithers	Prayer Points used in public worship and by prayer groups		Vicar
			2. Set up prophetic prayer group	Information	Gill Day & Julia Plaut	Encouragement and direction		Vicar
2005/6	Not known	Ministry to men	Gather together non-attending husbands	Co-ordinator				

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Aim 2								
To provide welcoming, excellent and varied worship opportunities, which are valued and valuable no matter what their style								
Start Date	End Date	TASK	Action Needed	Resources Needed	Who by	Measures of success	Review Date	Review Body
November 2003	01.10.04	Disability issues	Complete Ramp to hall, buy mobile ramp, buy and print large print copies of Hymn books and services	Parish Disability Audit	Martyn Plow Sara Lumley George Davies Denise Searle	Access for wheel chairs achieved – large print material available	15.11.04	PCC
15.09.03	Not known	Children & Communion	To meet an agree initial procedures and actions	Teaching material	Jane Shadwell, Martyn Plow and Vicar	Course running and Children receiving communion	17.01.05	PCC
11.09.04	15.11.04	Testimonies	Encourage HGL's & Alpha leaders to find volunteers with stories	none	HGL leaders Alpha leaders	Regular testimonies in public worship		Vicar
2005		Welcoming team	Appoint and train coordinators.					

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Aim 3

To discover and implement a variety of ways of supporting ‘community’ in the parish

Start Date	End Date	TASK	Action Needed	Resources Needed	Who by	Measures of success	Review Date	Review Body
08.05.04	15.11.04	Luncheon Club	Organise from scratch	Memorial Hall	Natalie Watson	Club running successfully	15.11.04	PCC
13.09.04	Not Known	Street Wardens			Michael Brooks			
13.09.04	16.10.04	Drug Proof Kids Course	Send Couple to training day			Course running in community		
2005/6		Marriage Course		‘The Marriage Course’ [Nicky & Sila Lee, 2000, Alpha]				
2005/6		Parenting Course		‘Family Time’ [Lindsay & Mark Melluish, 1999, Kingsway]				
2005/6		Dealing with Debt		Care for the family course				

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Aim 4

To give what God is doing for us to others by finding ways of being a resource for other churches including in training days and mission teams.

Start Date	End Date	TASK	Action Needed	Resources Needed	Who by	Measures of success	Review Date	Review Body
08.05.04	22.11.04	New Wine Leadership Retreats	Accommodation for leaders and delegates	Homes	Brian Gregory	Happy volunteers Sense of worth	17.01.05	PCC
			Meals.	Vicarage	Amanda Thompson			
			Venues.	Various	Paul Thompson			
11.09.04		More news of CASH & Huggard Centre	Testimonies from those involved		Peter Lewis	Speakers at Evening Praise	17.01.05	PCC
2005		Increase awareness of Missions supported		Mission Secretary	Mike Watson			PCC
2005		Resource other churches			Brian Gregory			PCC